



Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300 • Columbia, MD 21046

Minutes of the December 20, 2017 Meeting

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, First Floor-Room 1 Columbia, MD 21046

Attendance:

Appointed Members: Jacqueline Scott, Suellen Seigel, Karen Butler, Jennifer Pollitt Hill, William McMahon, Ayesha Holmes, Leslie Rogers Iampieri, Janet Paul and Mark Breaux.

Department of Community Resources and Services Staff: Cheryl Mattis, Sidney Ford and Cara Baumgartner.

Guests: Kelly Ruby, Kathy Jordan, Andrea Raid, Mary Levy, Charlee Borg, Det. Josh Mouton, Sgt. Cory Zirk, Chief Gary Gardner, Lt. E. Kruhm, Sgt. Jim Daly, Colleen McGuinn, Dave Tinker, Susan Schneider, Sara Cochran and Leslie Petak.

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am by Jacqueline Scott

Agenda:

- **Jacqueline Scott welcomed everyone to the Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council meeting**
- **Introducing Sidney Ford, the Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinator**
 - Founded the You Are Never Alone (YANA) Project to help sexually exploited women and children living on the streets. Worked with the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office in collaboration with victim specialists. Founded victim services subcommittee for the MHTTF. Most recently worked at JHCP Odenton as a psychotherapist.
 - Attendees went around the room and introduced themselves and gave a bit of information about their organization.
- **Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council**
 - Was formed because of trends showing the problem is growing in Howard County. It will be the coordinating body to make recommendations to the County Executive and be a centralized place to tie all the county players together. Sidney Ford will coordinate internally and connect to external organizations. She will also apply for grant funding and work on policy to expand or bring services into Howard County.
 - Ground rules for Council meetings: meetings will be open, meeting agenda and minutes will be posted on the Howard County website (once a section is built) and anyone is free to attend the meetings. There may be times where closed meetings are needed due to the sensitive nature of topics.
 - Rules for confidentiality were discussed. Confidentiality for domestic violence victim agencies: can only share information with written permission and special care is taken to keep victim anonymous in

- databases. Confidentiality for child abuse reports: when a report is made, the agency is not able to share the outcome, privacy and respect must be enforced at all times. Confidentiality in the school system: they have to report if a student is being harmed or is a danger to themselves or others. Otherwise, no information can be released unless permission is given. Confidentiality in law enforcement: they are not allowed to talk about pending cases, other than when charges are released. There are signed confidentiality agreements, so they can only discuss in generalities.
- There was an informal consensus in the room that people have experience with confidentiality through their work and that discussing issues in generalities would suit the council in most instances. Guidelines will be written up to codify confidentiality rules for the council.
 - The council will look at all issues related to human trafficking. Both sex and labor trafficking will be addressed. Currently, prohibitions against labor trafficking are included within extortion laws in Maryland. There are already some laws in Maryland which specifically address sex trafficking.
 - It was suggested that FIRN be offered a seat on the council. There is labor trafficking that will be missed unless there is someone able to speak the victim's language. FIRN would be of great assistance with non-English languages. FIRN has already been invited but will be contacted again.
 - There are also two seats open for survivors of human trafficking, two for the faith community and one for the community at large. It was encouraged to contact Sidney Ford with possible candidates.
 - There are two committees: Program Partnerships & Funding and Public Education. Attendees that want to join a committee were asked to contact Sidney Ford.
 - Program Partnerships & Funding committee members will identify services – and gaps in service – that require additional resource support. They will look at what is currently in place for HT victims and survivors in Howard County, and see what programs and services might be expanded to increase the capacity of the County's helping organizations (and the County itself) to better serve HT survivors. State, regional, national and international programs will also be explored.
 - Members of the Public Education committee will focus their efforts on bringing together a regional event to be held in Fall 2018, that will increase awareness of sex and labor trafficking in Howard County residents, organizations and businesses, and the public at large. Many people incorrectly believe that the issue happens "somewhere else," such as, "in other countries." Others think that victims are only brought in via the County's interstate highways (I-70, I-95). Part of the work of the committee will be to help everyone understand that victims of human trafficking have been discovered and assisted for years in this area and the surrounding region, and that the crime does not require movement from place to place, only that "something of value" be gained from the sexual or labor exploitation of victims.

- **An aggressive, 10-month timeline**
 - Full body will meet once a month
 - Howard County Government webpage will have a section for Human Trafficking Prevention. The minutes, agendas, list of board members, reports, data etc. will be stored there. Any existing data and reports should be sent to Sidney Ford.
 - It was proposed and accepted that the next meeting have time to go over what the last taskforce accomplished.
 - It was requested that the Fire Department have a representative at the council. An invite will be sent. It was reiterated again that if there are recommendations for the remaining spots, to please contact Sidney Ford.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am by Jacqueline Scott

Next meeting: January 17, 2018 9:00 am – 10:30 am

Ascend One Building - 8930 Stanford Boulevard Columbia MD 21046 – Barton Room

Please use main entrance and the security guard will direct you to the room.

Minutes submitted by Cara Baumgartner